G-G's advice to Zamindars, Haris

LARKANA: His Excellency Khwaja Nazimuddin, Governor-General of Pakistan, who visited the Agricultural Research Station at Dokri yesterday, told officers of the Sind Agriculture Department and leading Zamindars that as long as the Batai system prevailed in their province they could not expect a greater yield of crop from the land, as neither the Zamindar nor the Hari was prepared to spend money on artificial fertilizer, like Ammonium Sulphate.

His Excellency stressed the desirability either of abolishing the Batai system or modifying it to such an extent as to remove the existing handicaps.

At the Agricultural Research Station, the Governor-General was received by Mr S.A. Mustafa, Director of Agriculture, Sind Government, and Mr Mohammad Siddiq, Officer Incharge of the Station.

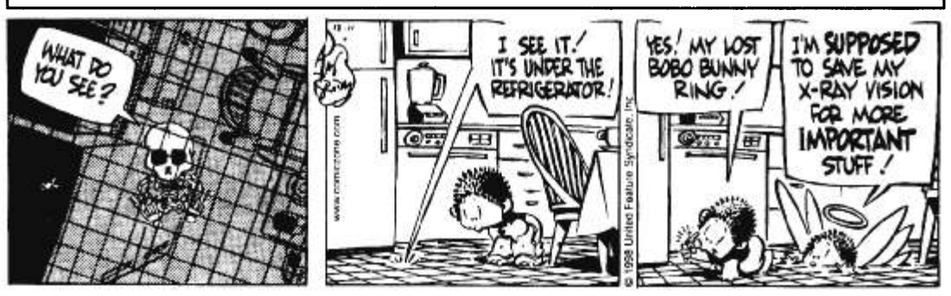
His Excellency went round the Research Station and discussed with the officers of the Agriculture Department improvement of the paddy crops and inspected the Cattle Breeding Farm and the model orchard which is maintained to demonstrate to local Zamindars the lay-out of a fruit garden. Later, His Excellency had tea with the officers of the Agricultural Research Station.

A visit to Moenjodaro and a drive through the countryside of Dokri Taluqa also figured in the programme of the Governor-General on his third day in Larkana district.

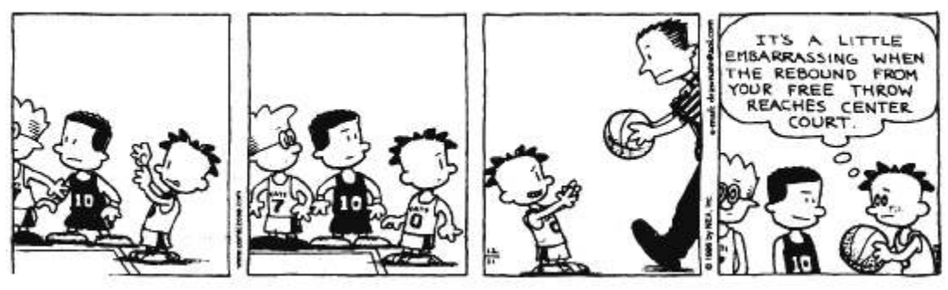
At Moenjodaro he was received by the Director of Archaeology, Pakistan, and Chaudhry Mohammad Ismail, Curator of the Museum. His Excellency was taken round the Moendjodaro finds and he showed keen interest in the various antique items preserved at the Museum.

January 01, 1949

ROSE IS ROSE — By Pat Brady

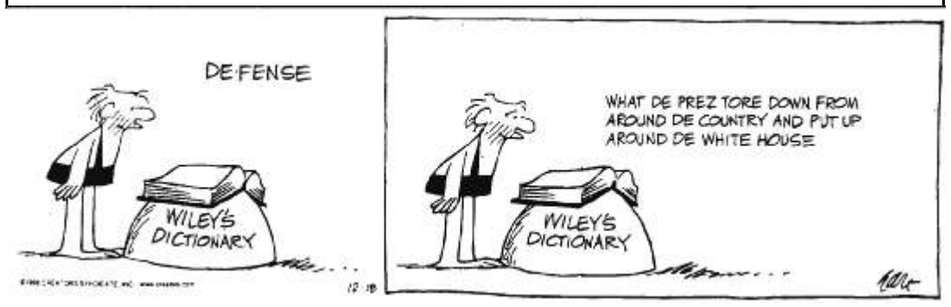

WHAT DO YOU SEE?
I SEE IT! IT'S UNDER THE REFRIGERATOR!
YES! MY LOST BOBO BUNNY RING!
I'M SUPPOSED TO SAVE MY X-RAY VISION FOR MORE IMPORTANT STUFF!

BIG NATE — By Lincoln Peirce



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

BC — By Johnny Hart


DEFENSE
WILEY'S DICTIONARY
WHAT DE PREZ TORE DOWN FROM AROUND DE COUNTRY AND PUT UP AROUND DE WHITE HOUSE
WILEY'S DICTIONARY

BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

WANDA, YOU HAVE TO STOP OBSESSING ABOUT BUNNY, NEXT DOOR.
IF IT BOTHERS YOU THAT SHE SEEMS SO PERFECT, IGNORE HER!
JUST LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE! DON'T EVEN LOOK OUT THIS WINDOW ANYMORE!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'VE BEEN LOOKING OUT THAT WINDOW?
THERE'S ANOTHER BITE OUT OF THE MINI-BLINDS.
SHE MAKES ME SO MAD...

CATHY — By Cathy Guisewite

I SHOULDN'T. I KNOW I'LL REGRET IT.
I'LL SPEND MONTHS PAYING FOR IT.
BUT RIGHT NOW EVERY SHRED OF COMMON SENSE IS OBLITERATED BY HOW HAPPY IT WOULD MAKE ME.
CHECK OR CHARGE?
SHOES: CHOCOLATE FOR THE FEET.

ARCHIE

JUGHEAD, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
FEW PEOPLE CAN!
I TOLD YOU TO WEAR SOMETHING APPROPRIATE FOR A DINNER PARTY!
I DID!
HENRY SCARPELLI GRABS BOLDWIN!
STRETCH PANTS!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

F-16 accord: many questions

THE indication that the F-16 issue would be resolved soon came on 13th May, 1995, when President Clinton while addressing a joint press conference after his official talks with Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto, then Prime Minister of Pakistan, said, "I do not think it is right for us to keep the money and the equipment."

This was followed the next day by Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel who stated in a press conference that new legislation will be required by Congress to "show flexibility towards Pakistan as promised by President Clinton".

The Government of Pakistan has always maintained that as the F-16 purchase had been completed prior to the Pressler Amendment, and so it should not be applicable in this case. As the United States refused to hand over the aircraft despite receiving full payment Pakistan maintained that in such circumstances the money be refunded.

Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz on 9th December, 1998, stated, "But our stand is that either they should provide the planes or return the money". What compelled him to resile from his statement and backtrack on Pakistan's stand by accepting part payment in cash only, history will tell or is there a quid pro quo?

The regime of Nawaz Sharif has lost all credibility. If the motives of the agreement are not doubted even then many apprehensions flow from its consequences. Firstly, the Government of Pakistan is to get $ 324.6 million in cash. The question arises as to how this amount would be utilized?

Given the track record of the present regime it is justifiably apprehended that this amount will be squandered in wasteful non-developmental expenditure to satisfy the whims and fancies of the Prime Minister or in activities relating to the development of the Raiwind empire or towards the payment of outstanding loans and interests payable by Pakistan.

The concerns of the Chief of Air Staff voiced in a recent interview will fall on deaf ears. Actually this amount should be used for enhancing the capability of PAF, especially after the extension of the defence agreement between India and Russia on 21st December, 1998. A committee of Parliament comprising members of the Treasury and Opposition should be constituted to oversee the dispersal of this amount.

The question of adjustment of $ 140 million against additional goods and benefits, including agricultural commodities, is vague and has many loopholes. In the fiscal year 1999, the United States will provide white wheat valued at about $ 60 million at prevailing market prices. With respect to the remaining $ 80 million the specific nature of the additional goods and benefits, their quantities and delivery schedule will be decided later. The present regime has to answer, firstly, why the deviation from Pakistan's oft repeated position of not adjusting this amount against commodities. Secondly, wheat is purchased in an open tender where all countries of the world enter the bidding.

It will be recalled that during the PPP tenure wheat tendering used to take place at Islamabad, under the supervision of an inter ministerial committee. Since assumption of office the Nawaz regime has again transferred the same to Washington D.C. An officer under instructions of the Prime Minister's Secretariat has been transferred to oversee this process and deliver the same benefits as he did in the first tenure. The regime must clarify as to what are the additional goods and benefits that will be available to Pakistan and for which US Dollars 80 million have been allocated.

The Foreign Minister in his statement reported in the national press on 9th December, 1998 said a number of proposals had been put forth by the US Administration. That being the case, Pakistanis cannot cease wondering, why the regime agreed to give up the interest accrued on this amount for the last over ten years and also agreed to pay service charges on a deal that failed to go through and why the option of going to court was not considered? The Law Ministry, as reported in the Press, did carry out an exercise. Lawyers were invited from the United States to Islamabad and paid exorbitant fees. But the question arises that when this was not a possible option why so much time, effort and money was spent on it?

The other side of the coin on which the regime has maintained a meaningful silence is whether the agreement is the result of quid pro quo — an economic bailout for restraint and non proliferation? These doubts are further strengthened because after the lifting of sanctions temporarily the United States administration maintained that Pakistan will have to take more steps.

US Assistant Secretary of State Carl Inderfurth, briefing the Press after the Clinton-Nawaz meeting said: "The President reaffirmed his view that more progress (on non-proliferation matters) needed to be made before we can remove all the sanctions". He went on to say "— there are steps that Pakistan must take". This was then followed by the statement of the Pakistan's Foreign Secretary on 13th December, 1998 that "I think we have gone a long way in meeting the non-proliferation objectives of the US". Will the regime inform the people what are these objectives?

Since the inception of this regime Pakistan's agenda has been lost in the private agenda of the rulers. The F-16 issue is no exception.

SENATOR RAZA RABBANI
Islamabad

CA-15 and Quaid's ideals

THE article of Qazi Faez Isa, CA-15 and Jinnah (*Dawn*, Dec 25) is commendable and thought-provoking. It is hoped it has not escaped the eyes of the author(s) of the Constitutional Amendment No. 15.

The writer has rightly concluded that the already diluted bill, if enacted, will not be good for the federation of Pakistan. It is most unfortunate that those who call themselves members of the Quaid's party should have been instrumental in passing the bill in the National Assembly which is palpably contrary to the Quaid's ideals.

There appears to be a lacuna in the constitution which does not prescribe a time-limit between the passage of a bill in the National Assembly and placing the same in the Senate for discussion. This lacuna should now be plugged by bringing in CA-16, prescribing a maximum of 30 days for presentation of a bill in the Senate after its passage in the National Assembly. If a bill is not brought to the Senate within 30 days it should be deemed to have been withdrawn.

In any case, it can be said that the time lag has been so long that its importance of CA-15 has been lost and it has virtually become redundant. It is hoped that wisdom will dawn on the author(s) of the bill to formally withdraw it. A good deed however delayed remains a good deed all the same.

A.M. SAYIED
Karachi

Meaning of Riba

THIS refers to Shamim Anwar's letter (Dec 28) in which the correspondent looks for the "meaning of Riba and its allied ramifications" as well as its antonym.

The correspondent has bypassed the Holy Quran which in verse 2:276 clearly provides the conceptual definition/meaning of Riba and its antonym. It states:

"Allah blots out (the gains of) Riba and causes sadaqa to grow, and Allah does not love any ungrateful wrongdoer."

Isn't Riba the antonym of sadaqa and vice-versa? What *sadaqa* is must be known to all.

S M KAZIM AHSAN
Lahore

Mazar's garden

THIS refers to the letter of Mr Mohammad Arif of the Management Board (*Dawn*, Oct 31) announcing the date of groundbreaking ceremony of this very important national project as December 25, 1998, coinciding with the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation. A detailed report was published on the same day under the caption, "Groundbreaking of gardens around mausoleum on December 25."

The nation is still waiting for this historic event to take place!

AZHAR HASAN SIDDIQUI
Karachi

Two million a minute

IN my letter (Dec 3) the PM's expenditure on his US trip was computed to be a million rupees a minute. This figure was based on a simple calculation.

But in EBR, dated Dec 14, the actual expenditure has been shown as Rs 60 million on the PM's 100-man entourage visit to the US to meet the American president.

The per minute expenditure now comes to Rs 2 million for the meeting of the PM and his delegation with the American president for 30 minutes.

A.G.M. GODIL
Karachi

Army in civilian jobs

I WAS shocked to read a headline in an eveninger on Dec 23 that army officers may head Railways to stamp out corruption. Another headline in *Dawn* (Dec 24) said, "over 30000 armymen inducted into Wapda". It is really mindboggling as to who is giving such Oot Patang orders.

Army officers and JCO's are already working in KESC without tangible results. There is obsessive resentment which manifested itself on Dec 22 when thousands of workers chanted slogans against a serving army officer who is heading their implementation cell.

The question is when a competent MD of KESC is sitting, why induct the army? The MD should be held responsible for any inefficiency in the organization. It should be he who should deliver or for that matter in all government departments the head of the department should be asked to produce desired results. Otherwise they should be given a sack as is done in business firms and companies.

Recently the army was employed for census duty. It was a pathetic spectacle when men of the Navy and Army were seen going from door to door like postmen in their uniform to carry out a task which is not their's. It was the job of the election commission and this should have been left to them.

It may be recalled that during the police strike in Lahore in 1972, Bhutto rang up Gul Hassan and asked him to deploy the army to perform the duties of traffic police. The General refused. He told Bhutto curtly, "Do not disgrace the army".

It does not require the brain of a scholar to understand a simple logic that the army should concentrate purely on professional matters.

Here it would not be out of context to mention that India is expanding its arsenal day by day with a view to destroy Pakistan. The recent visit of Russian Prime minister Yevgeny Primakev to India and his promise of 300 tanks, 60 SU-30 jet fighters and all out military cooperation with that country should serve as an eye-opener. Once the Russians had cooperated militarily with India back in 1971 and we know the outcome.

Our army is one of the best in the world and is the only solid, cohesive, well-disciplined force available in the country. Let us not touch it for sorting out petty things. It is one man's funny idea of using army in every sphere of life. It must be resisted vehemently. A soldier looks good in the neat and clean atmosphere of military cantonment, doing drill and PT. They look heroes in Siachin where they are performing herculean tasks.

Nowhere in the world, army is deployed to carry out task beyond its dignity, role or mission. It seems to me as if a conspiracy has been hatched to demoralize such a fine army.

Lt-Col (Retd) SAFIR A. SIDDIQUI
Karachi

Army's path

A THOUGHT on Capt Ayaz Amir's (not retired as he mentions because armymen never retire) article, "Down which path is the army being led. (Dawn, Dec 25). It is not being led, but is heading towards greener pastures. They seem to have forgotten General Montgomery's decision to avoid cities when chasing Rommel. Such cosy stops/will destroy soldiering.

ZAFAR OMER
Lahore

Parellels between Karachi & E. Pakistan

UNFORTUNATELY, there are many similarities between the 1970-71 situation in East Pakistan and the one prevailing in Karachi today.

(i) There are terrorists working under cover of a political party. (ii) Terrorists/guerrillas collecting *bhatta* (forced tax) and committing dacoities and kidnapping for ransom. (iii) Political parties based on lingualism with terrorist wings. (iv) Terrorists guerrillas trained and armed by India.

(v) A political party crushing dissent within its ranks through torture cells.

(vi) Support of Indian and Western media and a particular section of the Pakistani Press.

(vii) Party leaders working both within and outside the country for propaganda, foreign aid and other purposes.

(ix) Political hold and following created by terror, prejudice and negative propaganda.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan is active again with his seventh agitational front to create political anarchy and disorder to topple the government no matter what consequences it may have for the nation at this critical juncture. He is collecting around him all his former colleagues or their descendents who had opposed the creation of Pakistan. He is also associating with some so-called Islamists and Western democrats who are out to create disorder for their own ends.

The Nawabzada and some of his associates have time and again refused to visit and offer fateha at the mazar of the Quaid-i-Azam. God knows what are their future plans about Pakistan. They are having their beloved British type of parliamentary democracy. God knows why they do not allow it to function according to the constitution. Is it because they are not sharing the fruits of power?

M.B.B. HASTI — Muzaffarabad

Harassment by WAPDA men

I RECEIVED my WAPDA bill for the month of May 1997 showing an unexplained amount of Rs 2,800 as bill adjustment charges. When I contacted WAPDA's Nawankot subdivision officials, they advised me to pay the bill, saying the excess would be adjusted in future bills. I paid the bill but the amount was not adjusted.

In June this year I noticed that the meter reading was 10,971 while the meter itself showed 8,491, showing a difference of 2,480. I approached the sub-division officials who advised me to pay the bill, again with the promise that it would be compensated. Unable to pay the bill, I lodged a complaint with WAPDA's Central Complaint Cell on 24-07-1998 (No 3638 DC-2802/98/L).

In the meantime, a line superintendent, Maqsood Cheema, visited my house and alleged that the electricity meter had been tampered with. When I asked him to prove it, he threatened me with dire consequences.

I contacted the XEN and the SDO concerned, but to no avail. Two days later, the line superintendent raided my house with five colleagues and tried to forcibly enter the premises. When they were denied entry, they disconnected power supply on the charge of theft of electricity. They also wanted to take away the meter, but abandoned it when I demanded a receipt for it.

When contacted, the then SDO claimed that he was unaware of the raid. Later he changed his statement and said he would get a power theft FIR registered against me.

I again sought the help of WAPDA's Central Complaint Cell on 22-09-1998 (No Dy 2792).

At least seven 'raiding teams' have checked the meter installed on the boundary wall of my house since then and found nothing wrong.

In the meantime, the sub-division staff has frequently visited my house situated at Yousaf Street, Rustam Park, New Shalimar Road, Nawankot. He threatened to disconnect power supply. Every time they have gone away after neighbours intervened.

On 22-10-1998, I once again approached WAPDA's Central Complaint Cell (No Dy 3157). On Nov 6, one Pervaiz and another official came to my house and advised me to pay the bill because nothing could be done about the excessive reading. When I asked them why I should pay for the electricity I had yet to consume, Mr Pervaiz alleged that I had "reversed the meter". He said this was "proved" by the fact that the previous month I had consumed over 300 units while this month's reading was under 250.

Sir, I have no answer to such reasoning. I am neither running a factory nor have airconditioners installed in my house. Why should I steal electricity, and what should I do with it?

Nawankot Sub-Division lineman Shahid disconnected the electricity supply and removed the meter on Dec 26 at 3.30pm. I was not present at my house at that time.

According to the 'receipt' written by Mr Shahid, the meter reading was 09416 index. The bill I received for 12-98 has a reading of 12020 index, showing a difference of 2604 index. I am employed with an English-language newspaper and work on the night shift — from 8pm to 3.30pm. It is not possible for me to get up early in the morning daily and run from pillar to post without getting any relief. I request the authorities concerned to correct my bill and take action against errant officials.

ZAHEER MAHMOOD SIDDIQUI
Lahore

Stage dramas in Lahore

THIS refers to Lahori's Column, "The theatre in my city" (Dec 28). Mr. Zafar Iqbal Mirza (Lahori) has offered his candid opinion on my book titled "Lahore — Glimpses of a Glorious Heritage". He has, however, referred to two omissions in respect of the list of stage dramas performed during 1975, 1977 and 1980 and Imtiaz Ahmad Khan's reference to allegations of literary piracy.

I have great reverence and regard both for Zafar Iqbal Mirza (Lahori) and for Imtiaz Ahmad Khan. Just a word of clarification in this regard. There may be gaps and omissions in the list of plays, as there does not exist any proper archives on the subject. Further, during these years, construction was taking place and the office was in the process of shifting. Hence it had become difficult to find this information. I shall, however, be grateful if someone makes available the data for inclusion in the next edition.

Regarding Imtiaz Ahmad Khan's allegation of literary piracy, I would just invite his kind attention to page 7 under the head 'Acknowledgement'. In paragraph one line No. 10, it has been stated that "I am grateful to Saeed Malik, who allowed me to use his works both published and otherwise". Not only this, I have acknowledged the use of material in the first paragraph of the bibliography appearing at page 536 of my book.

I may further remark that Saeed Malik's article/material was used with his express permission which can be verified from him at his address, 735-Shadman Colony, Lahore, telephone No. 7592186.

In spite of all above, I am thankful for the comments of Imtiaz Ahmad Khan and Lahori.

NAZIR AHMAD CHAUDHRY
Lahore

Poverty and suicide

DAWN's issue (Dec 25) carries a shocking story on the back page: Poverty leads mother, three sons to commit suicide. For those who missed reading it, this tragic end was chosen by a mother of five in a village near Faisalabad.

Suicide is not unheard of in our society, although it is generally believed to be a grave sin as well as illegal. There have been stories about people committing suicide because they had been in utterly desperate financial straits for long periods.

It is not uncommon to hear, even these days, someone assert that "no one goes to bed hungry in Pakistan". I have always wondered about that. Signs are growing that we are losing a sense of community; the strong support net of joint family system is gradually fraying; the Zakat system is not always managed by caring dedicated and honest people.

Evidently, this family was denied all help or was too proud to receive any. Are there many such families in our midst? It seems that at a fairly reasonable expense an organization like the local Gallup group could carry out a sample survey to find out distribution of hunger around the country so that we might become aware of major problem areas. They could recoup the cost by selling the report to interested individuals and organizations.

I am confident that we can then find ways, at community level and, if necessary, with some support from willing individuals and outside communities to deal with this most unacceptable problem, this shame, most expeditiously.

DANISHMAND
Karachi

PIM admission policy

THE Pakistan Institute of Management, a prestigious institution, recently launched its Executive MBA programme in affiliation with the IBA, Karachi. The first batch was taken in March this year. I applied for admission to the second batch, for which classes start in January.

The eligibility for the course was a bachelor degree with at least three years of work experience. I appeared in the aptitude test on Nov 29 at the IBA city campus. Out of 160 candidates, 39 were declared successful. I was among them.

The test was followed by an interview for which I appeared on Dec 15. However, to my surprise my name was missing from the final list of successful candidates. Upon enquiry it was revealed that since I had secured a third division in my B. Com examination I could not get admission.

Interestingly, in the first batch selected in March 1998, third divisioners *were* given admission. This sudden change in policy caused me a lot of mental agony, as I had been preparing for the aptitude for the last six months.

If there was a decision not to select anyone having a third division, it should have been clearly mentioned in the ad appearing in the press. Secondly, if third divisioners were granted admission in the first batch, why was this abrupt change this time? My success in the aptitude test is proof of my seriousness to study and achieve an MBA degree. I would request the IBA director to consider my case.

AAMIR SIDDIQUI — Karachi

Good coverage

AS a member of the Christian community I found Dawn's coverage on the bomb blast in the Church very useful. Being a former parishioner of the Church myself, it was through Dawn that I got complete information on the story.

PATRICK A FERNANDES
Skokie USA